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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,148	03/29/2004	Gary W. James	METZ 2 00011	2979

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EXAMINER

GABLER, PHILIP FRANCIS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/812,148	Applicant(s) JAMES ET AL.	
	Examiner Philip Gabler	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6,9,10 and 14-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6,9,10 and 14-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claims 1 and 17 recite "a second side wall positioned opposite [a] first side wall" twice within each claim (lines 8-10 of each claim). It is unclear whether a single or two second side walls are intended to be claimed.
4. Claim 21 recites "a planar surface" on the ninth line of the claim. It is unclear whether this is the planar surface recited in claim 17 or is a new and separate limitation.
5. Claims 5, 6, 9, 14-16, and 18-21 are deemed indefinite as being dependent on and indefinite claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 6, 9, are 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans (US Patent Number 3168365) in view of Wise (US Patent Number 2911275) and Vargo (US Patent Number 4142638).

8. Regarding claims 1 and 17 Evans (Figures 3-5) discloses a cabinet comprising: a first side wall (12); a first support member (47), wherein the support member includes a first leg (viewed as A in Exhibit 1, note that legs of support members are shown best in Figure 4 of element 17, which is equivalent to 47) extending at least substantially normal to the first side wall and a second leg (B) extending from the first leg spaced from and at least substantially parallel to the first side wall; a second side wall (13) positioned opposite the first side wall; a third wall (11) interconnecting the first and second side walls; a base wall (not shown, but inherent in a cabinet structure, located opposite top surface D) interconnecting the first, second and third walls, and a second support member (17) extending from the third wall, the second support member is positioned at substantially the same height from the base wall as the first support member on the first wall, the second support member includes a first leg extending at least substantially perpendicular to the second side wall and a second leg extending from the first leg spaced from and at least substantially parallel to the second side wall; and a removable shelf (20) including a planar surface and a first flange (21) depending from the planar surface, and the shelf includes a second flange (24) depending from the planar surface. Evans discloses an alternate support member on the first and second side walls and does not disclose support members punched through walls, or hemispherical dimples or openings in shelf flanges to receive them. Wise (Figures 1

and 8) discloses support members (14) punched out of opposite side walls such that an opening (behind 14) is formed through a side wall. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to punch the Evans' support members directly from the walls as taught by Wise rather than adding a separate support member containing strip because this would reduce the number of parts and the complexity of manufacture of the cabinet. Vargo (Figures 1, 4, and 6) discloses a shelving system including support members (13) on opposite side walls for supporting opposite sides of a shelf and having first (at 20, 40) and second (23) legs, the second leg including a substantially hemispherical dimple (36) for mating with an opening (50) in a flange (B) of a shelf. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include dimples and receiving openings as taught by Vargo in Evans' support members because this arrangement would help prevent accidental removal of the shelves. It further would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include similar support members (with first and second legs, and dimples) on the side walls of Evans' cabinet as taught by Vargo because this would ease manufacture by allowing a single type of support member to be used throughout the cabinet as opposed to Evans' alternate side supports.

9. Regarding claim 6, Evans further discloses the support member is a lance.

10. Regarding claim 9, material choice is a matter of preference and therefore given little patentable weight. Evans however, does disclose various components of the cabinet fabricated from metal (see column 2 line 20, column 2 lines 24-25, etc.).

11. Regarding claims 14 and 18, Evans further discloses a support wall (45) disposed between the first side wall and the second side wall in a first direction and the removable shelf and the base wall in a second direction.

12. Regarding claims 15, 16, 19, and 20, Evans does not specifically disclose a connection for the support wall to the base wall and removable shelf. However, he does disclose the use of lances for connecting elements (support wall to shelf 48 for instance) and it accordingly would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a lance connection for connecting the support wall to the base wall and removable shelf.

13. Regarding claim 21, Evans, as modified by Wise and Vargo as described above, discloses a third support member punched out of and extending from the third wall such that a third opening is formed through the third wall adjacent the third support member, the third support member is positioned at substantially the same height from the base wall as the first support member on the first wall, the third support member includes a first leg extending at least substantially perpendicular to the third wall and a second leg extending from the first leg spaced from and at least substantially parallel to the third wall, the second leg of the third support member includes a substantially hemispherical dimple, and the removable shelf further including a flange depending from the planar surface including an opening dimensioned to receive the dimple of the third support member.

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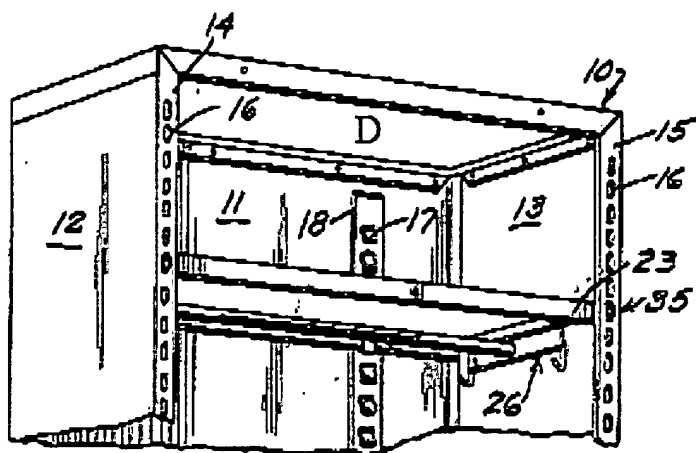


FIG. 3

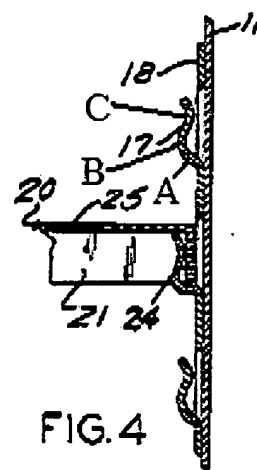


FIG. 4

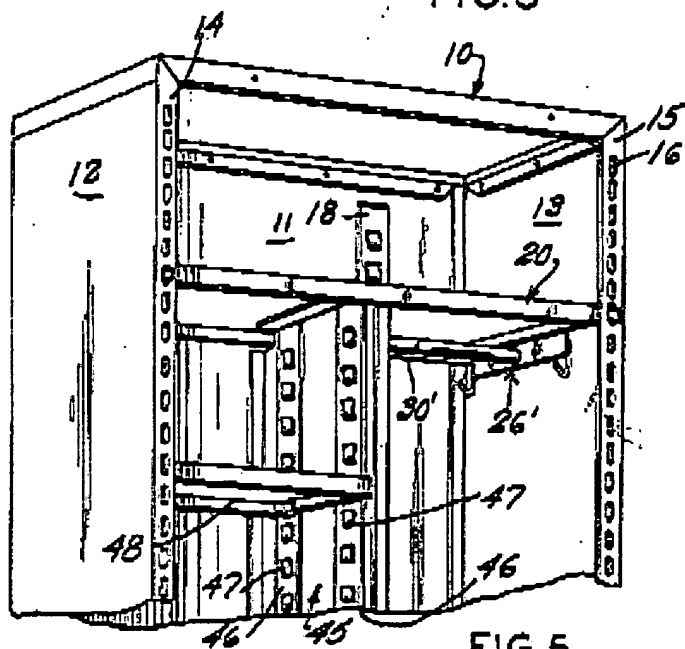
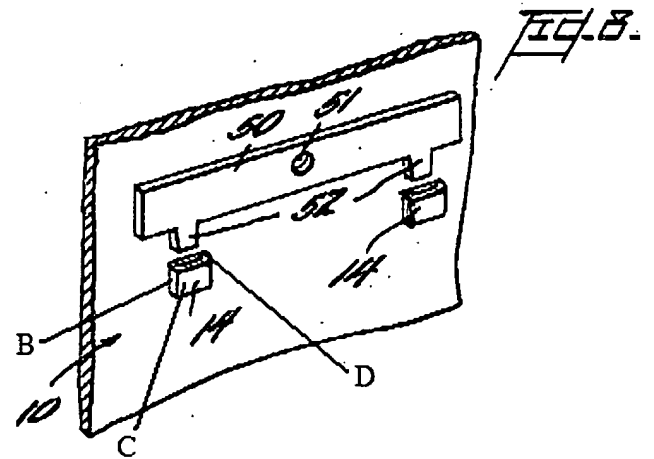
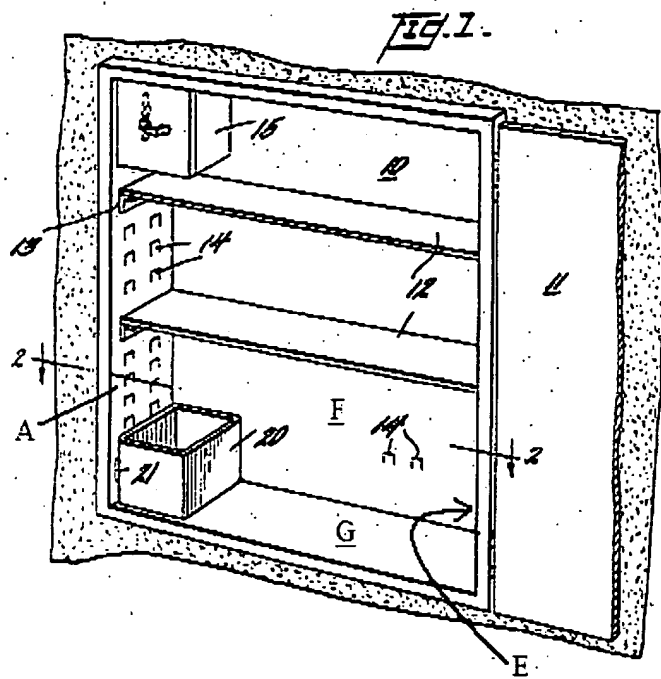


FIG. 5

Exhibit 1: Evans '365 Figures 3-5



Wise '275 Figures 1 and 8

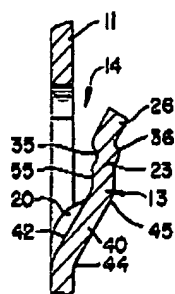
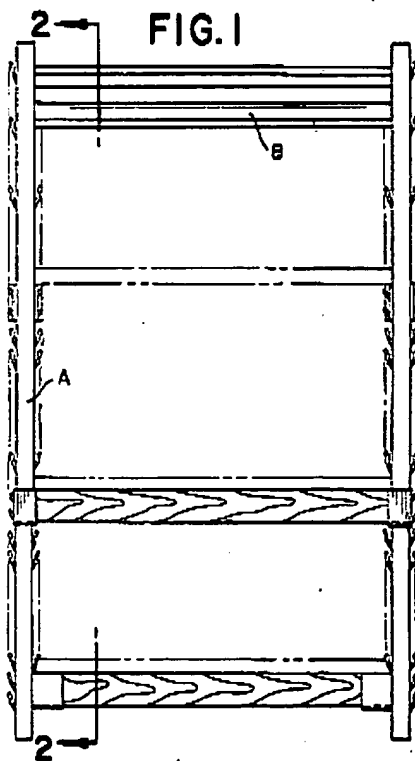
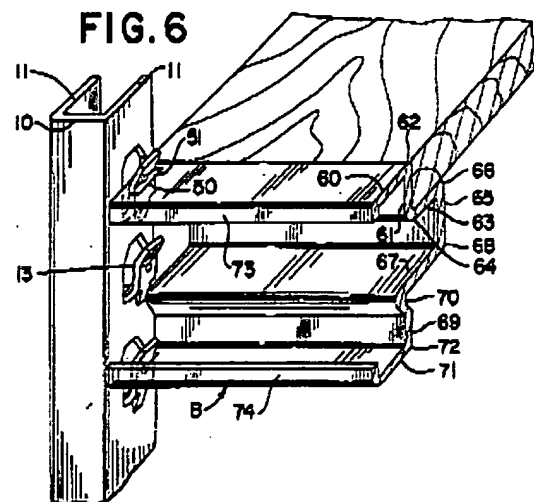


FIG. 4



Vargo '638 Figures 4 and 6

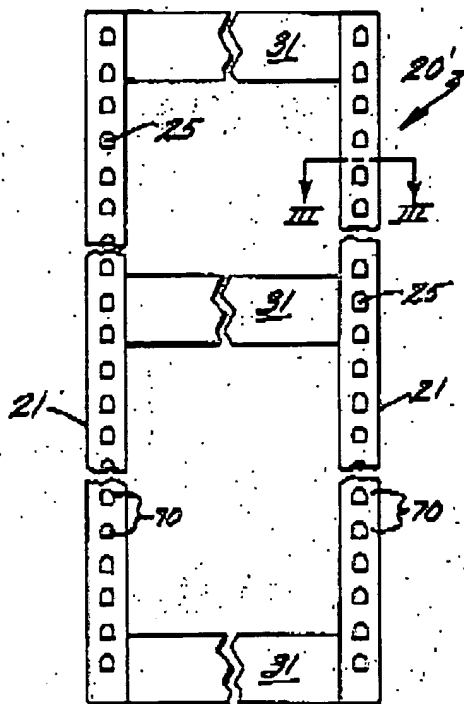
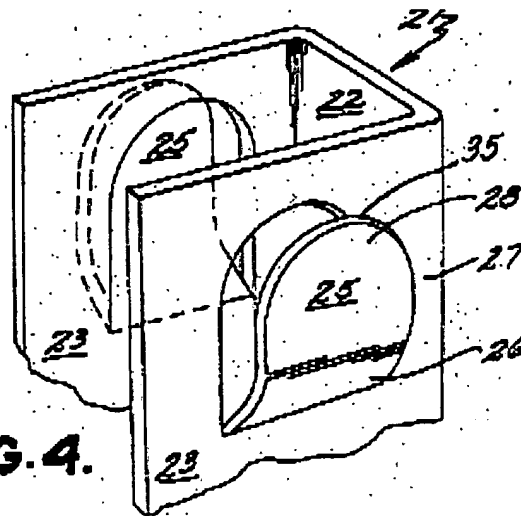
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14. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Wise and Vargo and further in view of Young. Evans, when modified by Wise and Vargo as described above, discloses a cabinet as recited in claim 1 but does not disclose a support member with a rounded upper edge. Young (Figures 2 and 4) discloses a shelving system including support members (25) with rounded upper edges. Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify support members of Evans' cabinet, previously modified by Wise and Vargo, to include rounded upper edges as taught by Young because this would aid manufacturability as well as assisting in the installation of shelves.

15. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Vargo. Young discloses a lance formed in a side wall of a cabinet for supporting a removable shelf, the lance comprising: a first leg (26) extending at least substantially normal to an associated surface (note that Young discloses an acute angle between the first leg and the surface 27, but based on his figures, the leg is viewed as substantially normal); a second leg (28) extending from the first leg at least substantially normal to the first leg, the second leg including a round upper edge. Young does not disclose a substantially hemispherical dimple formed in the second leg. Vargo discloses a shelving system including lances (13) for supporting opposite sides of a shelf and having first (at 20, 40) and second (23) legs, the second leg including a substantially hemispherical dimple (36) for mating with an opening (50) in a flange (B) of a shelf. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

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invention was made to include dimples as taught by Vargo in Young's lance because this arrangement would help prevent accidental removal of a removable shelf.

**FIG. 2.****FIG. 4.**

Young '202 Figures 2 and 4

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments, see the first page of remarks, filed 18 May 2006, with respect to the objections to claims 6, 11, and 12 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objections to the claims have been withdrawn.

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17. The remainder of Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Gabler whose telephone number is (571) 272-6038. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PFG *ilb*
7/7/2006

James O. Hansen
JAMES O. HANSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER